To: Gomez, Kendra[Gomez.Kendra@epa.gov]
From: Bokun, Lisa
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 5:35:49 PM
Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Glad to hear Susan supported you. This should clearly illustrate the need for personnel most likely to be deployed to be pre-screened annually in addition to those on JHA's and RSC folks needing specific H&S training. Preparedness means being prepared BEFORE any incident.....duh! Always happens.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

-----Original Message-----
From: Gomez, Kendra
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Bokun, Lisa
Subject: RE: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

-----Original Message-----
From: Bokun, Lisa
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Gomez, Kendra
Subject: FW: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

Interesting that Brian is weighing in on this but certainly glad to see.

-----Original Message-----
From: Kovak, Brian
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:19 AM
To: OARM-OA-SHEMD-SHEMPMGRS
Cc: NAR HS Workgroup
Subject: FW: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

SHEMP Mgrs,
FYI- I have asked the Removal program to make sure they don't deploy non-field staff or RSC members to ER's without either having a current medical clearance or going through the expedited medical clearance procedure we had set up with SHEMD and FOH previously. It seems to be inconsistent across the regions, probably because some may not have participated in this procedure in the past. They should also be current on field safety training as needed.

Thanks,
Brian

Brian Kovak

Safety, Health and Environmental Management Official US EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Environmental Response Team Edison, NJ
732-321-6609 - phone
908-202-9848 - cell

-----Original Message-----
From: Kovak, Brian
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 11:26 AM
To: OSWER OEM REMOVAL MANAGERS
Cc: Carpenter, Wesley; Cheatham, Reggie; Woolford, James
Subject: FW: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

RM's,
I am recommending to the Regions that they only deploy their staff in support of an Emergency Response Incident, that already have a medical clearance from participating in our Occupational Medical Surveillance Program, or that they receive an expedited medical clearance from their local Federal Occupational Health (FOH) clinic. Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Thanks,
Brian

Brian Kovak
Safety, Health and Environmental Management Official U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Environmental Response Team Edison, NJ
732-321-6609 office
908-202-9848 mobile

From: Kovak, Brian
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Nakatsu, Jason
Cc: Krueger, Roy; Gomez, Kendra; Woodlee, Jeff; Beasley, Craig; Wynn, David; Greenberg, Marc
Subject: Re: Abandoned Mine Release into Animas River - Health & Safety Training, and Medical Surveillance

After reviewing our RSC procedures and discussions with David Wynn in SHEMD, I highly recommend that we require that all EPA employees being deployed to work in support of an Emergency Response either already be enrolled in our Occupational Medical Surveillance Program and medically cleared for field work, or if not, they undergo an expedited medical clearance through FOH as setup under our RSC program.

Once an EPA employee leaves the regional office to participate in an Incident Management Team in the field, we no longer have control over their work activities. In a fast paced ER situation, they can be reassigned on site or asked to assist in other duties or field work locations by the Incident Commander or their Section Chief in support of the ER mission. Therefore, they need to have a medical clearance. We have had situations during past ERs with non-field employees having underlying medical conditions, stress issues and being not physically or medically suited for the high stress environment and demands of

working in an IMT during an ER. The expedited medical clearance will help assure we are taking the necessary steps to protect our employees prior to deploying them.

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5 Inform your senior managers of the need to have this program implemented prior to deploying your staff to the field.

Thanks,
Brian

Brian Kovak
Safety, Health and Environmental Management Official Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
908-202-9848